

## Specialization in Aboriginal Law

Any student in the JD program may earn a Specialization in Aboriginal Law by undertaking a course of study that will thoroughly prepare them for any number of different career paths, including the practice of law in this demanding area of law. An eligible student receives a letter from the Coordinator of the Specialization certifying that he or she has completed the Faculty's Specialization in Aboriginal Law. No official notification is made on a student's academic transcript. A student may, however, at his or her discretion, note achievement of the Specialization on his or her curriculum vitae. The Specialization is not available to graduate students (though graduate students may enroll in some of UBC's Aboriginal law courses).

In order to earn the Specialization certification, a student must complete **14 credits** in the field of Aboriginal law.

### **Mandatory**

Law 100b	Constitutional Law (Aboriginal and Treaty Rights)	2 credits
Law 352	Aboriginal Peoples and Canadian Law	3 credits

### **9 credits in Aboriginal law courses must come from the following list:**

Law 320	Indigenous Peoples in Comparative and International Law	3 credits
Law 353	Aboriginal and Treaty Rights Litigation	3 credits
Law 354	Aboriginal Self Government	3 credits
Law 356	First Nations and Economic Development	3 credits
Law 358	Topics in First Nations Law	1-3 credits
Law 483	Kawaskimhon (Aboriginal Rights) Moot	5 credits
Law 488	Clinical program: Indigenous Community Legal Clinic	6 credits

Other courses with sufficient Aboriginal law content (including those from other UBC programs), and courses taken at other institutions by transfer students or exchange students, may count towards the specialization subject to approval by the Coordinator of the Specialization, acting in conjunction with the Associate Dean Academic Affairs and the Assistant Dean, Students. Where it is reasonably possible to do so, approval must be sought in advance of registration for the academic year.

Transfer students must either (a) satisfy the Coordinator, Associate Dean Academic Affairs and Assistant Dean, Students that they undertook studies before transferring that satisfy the Federation of Law Societies' competency requirement in Section 35 jurisprudence

(covered at UBC Law with Law 100b), or (b) take 2 additional credits at UBC Law providing grounding in Aboriginal and Treaty Rights.

***Students should note that not all courses are offered every year.*** Where a JD student in his or her third (or graduating year) is unable to complete 14 credits in the field of Aboriginal law through enrolment in subjects on this list – either due to a lack of available courses or a serious timetabling conflict – he or she may be granted permission to take a Directed Research paper to count toward the 14 credits. This paper – which can be between 2 and 4 credits – must contain relevant Aboriginal law content, and be approved in advance of the commencement of the academic term by the Coordinator of the Specialization. The paper will be subject to verification by the Coordinator of the Specialization to ensure the content has sufficient Aboriginal law focus.

A student electing to participate in either the Moot or the Clinic may not use a Directed Research to count toward the required 14 credits. A student participating in both the Moot and the Clinic may only apply credits from one experience toward the required 14 credits.

When a student has met the above requirements, and within one month of having received sufficient credits, he or she should contact the Coordinator of the Specialization or the Academic Director of the Indigenous Legal Studies Program to arrange for issuance of the Specialization certificate.